

Devotional Thoughts :: Sadhu Sundhar Singh on Prayer

Sadhu Sundhar Singh on Prayer - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/20 19:27

"When we see a crane or heron standing motionless on the shore of a lake or pond, we might think it is meditating on the beauty of the water. But this is not so! The bird stands there for hours without moving, but as soon as it sees a frog or small fish, it darts forward and greedily snatches it. Many people have the same approach to prayer and meditation. Seated on the shore of the boundless ocean of God's love, they actually give no thought to his majesty or to the divine grace that cleanses us from sin and satisfies the hungry soul.

Instead, they are consumed by the thought of receiving something for themselves, some morsel to gratify their self-indulgence. Having visited the very source of true peace and bliss, they fail to appreciate it and instead give themselves to fleeting pleasures. The essence of prayer does not consist in asking for things, but in opening one's heart to God. Prayer is continual abandonment to God. It is the desire for God himself, the giver of life. Prayer is communion with God, receiving him who is the giver of all good gifts, living a life of fellowship with him. It is breathing and living in God.

A little child will run to his mother exclaiming: "Mother! Mother!" The child does not necessarily want anything in particular. He only wants to be near his mother, to sit on her lap, or to follow her about the house. The child longs for the sheer pleasure of being near her, talking to her, hearing her voice. This is what makes him happy. It is just the same with those who are truly God's children. They do not trouble themselves with asking for spiritual blessings. They only want to sit at the Master's feet, to be in living touch with him; then they are supremely content.

Climate affects the form, color, and growth patterns of plants and flowers. In the jungle we often see insects that have taken on the form and color of the grass and green leaves on which they feed. In the snow of the North, the polar bear's fur has the same snowy whiteness. The Bengal tiger wears stripes on its skin like the reeds where it lives. Our spiritual environment similarly affects us. If we remain in communion with God, our habits and disposition – even our appearance – are all changed. To pray means to be on speaking terms with God, to be in communion with him and to be transformed into his likeness. We begin to take on a glorious and incorruptible spiritual nature."

Re: Sadhu Sundhar Singh on Prayer - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/20 19:29

"Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness know Him. He reveals Himself to such people -- those who spend time in prayer. We see our face sometimes not in a mirror but in a river, but when there are waves in the river we are not able to see ourselves. When our lives are full of hurry and bustle we fail to see ourselves, but in a quiet place we see ourselves and we shall be entirely changed -- a new life. Then we shall not be ashamed. We shall know Him by living with Him - and we must live in Him through a life of prayer."

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/4/20 19:31

Thank you for sharing these.

Re: - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/20 19:49

"The new-born child needs no instruction in drinking, but instinctively turns to its mother's breast for nourishment. For her part, the mother withholds no good gift from her child, but still the child cannot receive the mother's milk without effort. In the same way, we are carried at God's breast, but we must turn to God in prayer for the spiritual milk that sustains our souls."

Re: Followthelamb, on: 2016/4/20 20:43

Sister so agree. After reading these posts went out for a prayer walk this evening with the Lord. Such a refreshing time. Heard him speak into my mind.

Many times I think we have made prayer a religious thing. Or a time of simply petitioning Him for our own needs. I think we need to rediscover that prayer is simply conversing with God. I think the Lord likes it when we just come to him and simple fellowship and talk about what occurred during the day. I think this is what Adam did when he walked with the Lord in the cool of the day.

Anyway my sister thank you for these wonderful posts. Such an encouragement to come to Jesus in prayer. Such an encouragement to come to Jesus in fellowship.

The Lord bless you richly.

Brother Blaine

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/20 21:03

Yea blain ,I feel the most important pray is the ministry to the lord as seen in the acts of the apostals, but this is forgotten , and replaced with petition meetings , for healing for material blessings ,,what God can do for us has become more important then God ,,the measure of spiritual blessing we can get through petition meetings ,is not the same and wil not fill us with his spirit to a point where we become saints full of the spirit ,,

Our priority in prayer meetings should be expectant pray ,to be filled with God ,and out of that will flow the rest of secondary types of praying ,namely petitions,, Supplication is a lost or neglected art ,in the Christian life ,,lets be supplicants regarding his spirit , poor Begeraly hungry for the bread from heaven above all other blessings of healings ,and temporary blessings ...

Re: Brothagary, on: 2016/4/20 22:10

Amen my brother. Amen.

Re: Sadhu Sundhar Singh on Prayer - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/4/20 23:11

Thank you sister for sharing these devotionals. This is so rich, and it is really what is at the heart of prayer that all those that sought to seek God's face and not His hand wrote about.

I have often had the most wonderful fellowship with God going out in the woods or in the park, and spending time in the Lord's presence. This is so much better than the seeking of things, and if we truly seek the Kingdom of God first, then everything that we need in life will be provided for us.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/21 0:22

Mike I would even go as far as saying that even healing miricals jobs ,safety and the list goes on are what the Gentiles seek ,and if we seek for the the kingdom of God ,all these things will be added,,because God knows what we need ,,so we can just believe God knows what we need acknowledge that we know that God knows what we need ,,and just seek the kingdom of God and his spirit ,rather then spend an hour praying for all this ,, ..

Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer,,and he taught the seeking of the holly spirit in a fevernt way ,hence why he gave the parable of getting loves,from th friend at night while the friend was in bed with his children ,,persistent seeking for the Holy Spirit ...

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/4/21 3:11

Gary, I agree with you that the Kingdom of God and His righteousness should be the main thing that we are seeking after, but there is a place in prayer that we can petition God for needs. Even in the Lord's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread."

We have not because we ask not. Jesus said that if we abide in Him and His Word abides in us, then we can ask whatever we will, and it shall be done for us. (John 15:7).

The point is that many Christians come to God with a big list of needs without spending time in true fellowship, praising and thanking Him for who He is and what He has done, and seeking to know Him, and to be changed by beholding His glory.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/21 3:28

Yea I'm hearing ya,,,but also I notice how much it takes to say lord please give me bread,,,and compare that to Christ teaching on prayer for the holy spirits fillings which he taught to press in for and continue asking ,,if I may say till that place was shaken as in the acts of the apostals ...

Not try to take away from the idea of petitions ,,but the lord what we need before we ask ,so seek the kingdom and all things will be added to us ,

I'm sure we can spend more time seeking the kingdom ,and less times praying through a list that takes an hour ,. A literal written paper list of needs

Do you have the faith to just lay the list of needs upon the alter so to speak ,and say amen thank you lord ,and exercise faith ,and then we can spend the next 45 mins out of the hour, seeking his kingdom spirit and his righteousness ,,,,,,

I know you have that kind of faith imspeaking rhetoric .

Lord please give us this day our daily bread ,,and please answer our pray list scince you said it is your will if we abide ,,amen

Now let's get down to business,

Re: , on: 2016/4/21 5:53

Good stuff Brothers. Really feasting at the Lord's table. So when we are seeking first His kingdom. Is that essence seeking Jesus Himself?

As I am reading your posts the verse is coming to mind out of Luke. When Jesus says that the kingdom of God is within you. I am wondering if He is making reference to Himself. If so. Then it would make sense to seek Him and His righteousness. And He will surely take care of our needs. And that would be too certainly seek Him in prayer.

Brother Blaine

Re: Give Me Jesus , on: 2016/4/21 6:22

I have been listening to Fernando Ortega, Give Me Jesus. Then realize. This is a prayer. Give Me Jesus. There is such a simplicity and purity in this prayer. Give Me Jesus.

Imagine if you will a father who has a child. How would that Father feel if that child kept coming to him saying dad give me this or I want that. The child would be pretty spoiled.

But imagine how that father's heart would be moved if the child came to him saying dad I love you. I want to be in your lap and just be with you. How that father's heart would delight to love that child. And imagine how that father would want to give that child whatever he needed.

How would God respond to us if we would just seek Him for who He is. Just want to be in His presence.

God bless Fernando Ortega for this beautiful song. Give Me Jesus.

Brother Blaine

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/21 6:37

Yep amen, just the simple broken wailing for more of Jesus , is the pray that I want the Holy Spirit to pray in me ,

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/21 6:43

That is where the unspeakable joy is ..

Have you ever noticed that even when we have our most fullest experience in the Holy Spirit,,we at that time morn for more of him ,for us and for the fallen world ,with a broken joy of indescribable emotions,that produce a pure thanks giving ,,,,,,,I want that ,,,every thing else seems like a waste of time if I don't get more of that

What a Devine Delemer

Re: , on: 2016/4/21 6:51

Gary you are so right. I've been listening to the hymn Be Thou My Vision. Another beautiful expression of give me more of Jesus. Somehow when you're seeking Jesus. Nothing else really matters.

My heart is grieved over the countless hours of debating theology in this forum. God grant me that desire to simply focus and get more of Jesus.

But as I get more of Him. I get more of His heart and see His longing to reveal Himself to a broken sinful world.

Oh dear God give me more of Jesus.

Brother Blaine

Re: - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/21 12:51

Amen! Thank you brothers for the blessing of what you've been sharing on this thread.

Re: - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/21 12:57

"If eggs are not properly hatched they become rotten. So we too are in danger of perishing from sin. But we are being prepared and we shall fly from our shell into our heavenly home. Even animals know their master but we don't know our Creator. We cannot change His will but through prayer we can understand His will. What is necessary for His will, will be given to us to carry out His plans.

We are being changed. When the egg is being hatched it is changed; then, in time, the chick will become like the mother-bird. The liquid matter is changed until it becomes a young bird which becomes like its mother. In prayer we are being hatched and changed and prepared to be like Him. All eggs do not get hatched. They need the Mother's warmth. So too we need the baptism of the Holy Spirit to make us warm. We must receive the warmth and heat from Him in prayer."

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2016/4/21 14:39

Thank you sister for sharing. I do not think the point that Sadhu brings here is not to ask for earthly things to God in prayer. But it is to not be occupied with earthly things and miss the fellowship with father.

Re: , on: 2016/4/21 14:50

Gary writes.....

"Have you ever noticed that even when we have our most fullest experience in the Holy Spirit,,we at that time morn for more of him ,for us and for the fallen world ,with a broken joy of indescribable emotions,that produce a pure thanks giving ,,,,,,,I want that ,,every thing else seems like a waste of time if I don't get more of that"

Your right brother, if we dont have that then what is the point? Its kinda like 1 Cor 13, if we dont have love then what does anything else profit us?.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/4/21 16:15

"As I am reading your posts the verse is coming to mind out of Luke. When Jesus says that the kingdom of God is within you. I am wondering if He is making reference to Himself. If so. Then it would make sense to seek Him and His righteousness. And He will surely take care of our needs. And that would be too certainly seek Him in prayer."

Amen Blaine!

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The kingdom of God is within us because Christ lives in us.

When we pray "Thy Kingdom come", we are praying for Christ to rule and reign in His Church and in the earth.

Re: Sadhu Sundhar Singh on Prayer - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/4/22 13:46

Amen, brother Sreeram. Still in the process of sharing a few more words from him on prayer. Here is another...

"I have experienced many dangers in my travels, often because intolerant people wished to see me come to harm. Once near Kailas, I asked directions to the nearest village. Out of spite, the villagers deliberately sent me down a dangerous jungle path. As night came on, I came to a river that blocked my path and there was still no village to be seen. Already in the dusk, I could hear the sounds of wild animals nearby. With no way to cross the river, I sat down and prayed, thinking that the end of my life was at hand.

When I looked up, I saw a man on the other side of the river beside a fire. He called to me: "Do not be afraid! I am coming to help you." I was astonished to see him wade purposefully across the swift river. Coming up to me, he said, "Sit on my shoulders and have no fear." As easily as before, he walked straight across the current with me on his back. He set me down on the far bank, and as I walked beside him, both he and the fire disappeared.

Another evening, I was driven out of a village by an angry crowd, wielding clubs. They drove me into the forest until I came to a rock face and could go no further. There I huddled among the stones waiting for them to attack me and batter me to death. But nothing happened.

After it was quiet for a time, I looked around and there was no sign of my tormentors. I built a fire, tended my wounds and slept at that same place. In the morning, I awoke to the sight of several men staring at me fearfully from a distance. Cautiously, they approached and offered me food and drink, asking, "Sadhu-ji, who were those men in shining robes who stood around you last night?"

Re: - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/5/19 20:36

A few more quotes on prayer from brother Sundar Singh...

"Every day whenever we spend time in prayer and realize His presence, we must hold these things fast in our heart. Without prayer it is impossible. Prayer is not asking for this thing or that thing, but for the Giver of blessing Himself -- that He may live in us. See how wonderful our Saviour is!"

"Some people are very thankful when their prayer is answered. But the people who think that prayer is merely asking are greatly mistaken. God gives Himself. Even wicked are receiving all kinds of things from God. If the Holy Spirit were given

without prayer, we should not be able to appreciate Him. But the people who receive Him can't live without prayer. They may fall, they may make mistakes, but they know the value of prayer; and those who know the value of a life of fellowship will never cease."

"A child two or three days old does not know anything about this world -- about his mother and about milk, but he knows how to suck milk. He does not know Khasi or Hindi, but he knows how to suck. God has provided milk for the child in his mother's breast, but it does not flow into the child's mouth. He has to suck and he gets stronger and stronger every day. God is our spiritual Mother and we experience that when we lead a life of prayer. We have desire. This desire is to be satisfied, and only He can meet the needs of the human heart."

Re: - posted by followthelamb (), on: 2016/6/10 0:46

"THROUGH PRAYER, by the simple method of prayer, we become aware of Christ's Presence and learn to know Him."
- Sadhu Sundar Singh